

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00460 200345Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 EB-08 AID-05 IO-13 ICA-11
COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 /063 W
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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9189
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY ROME
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0460

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EPAP PORG VM (WFP)
SUBJECT: BLIGHT AFFLICTS RICE CROP IN SOUTHERN VIET NAM

REF VIENTIANE 427

1. A RELIABLE SOURCE WHO JUST RETURNED FROM VIET NAM AFTER INSPECTING DAMAGE TO THE RICE CROP REPORTED REFTEL SAID THAT IN THE PROVINCES OF NGHE TINH AND BINH TRI THIEN (THE ONLY PROVINCES HE WAS ALLOWED TO VISIT) THE DAMAGE DID NOT SEEM TO BE AS EXTENSIVE AS ORIGINALLY CLAIMED BY THE VIETNAMESE. IN NGHE TINH OF AN EXPECTED EARLY PLANTING CROP YIELD OF 133,000 TONS, THE VIETNAMESE ESTIMATED 28,000 TONS HAD BEEN LOST.
2. HE ALSO TOLD US THAT CONTRARY TO THE ORIGINAL VIETNAMESE CLAIM, THE DAMAGE TO THE RICE WAS CAUSED NOT BY INSECTS BUT BY A FUNGUS BLIGHT.

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3. HE SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD PLANTED FIVE TYPES OF RICE IN THE SOUTHERN PROVINCES "1001", "1314",

"A-3", A CHINESE RICE STRAIN, AND "IR-8". OF THESE, ONLY THE IR-8 WAS AFFECTED BY THE BLIGHT. THE VIETNAMESE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT IR-8 HAD BEEN SOWN IN THE

NORTH SINCE 1970 AND THAT FUNGUS BLIGHT HAD FIRST APPEARED THERE IN 1973. FAILURE OF FARMERS TO APPLY ANY PESTICIDE TO THE IR-8 SEEMED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO THE 1978 RICE CROP.

4. THE SOURCE SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HAD REQUESTED THAT THE WFP PROVIDE 9,000 TONS OF PESTICIDES AND 145,000 TONS OF FOOD IN ADDITION TO WFP DELIVERED AND PROMISED AID TO MEET THIS LATEST FOOD PROBLEM.
ROBERTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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